

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

Final Summary Meeting Minutes October 21, 2002

Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Meeting Location:
Metering Conference Room
SPU Operations Control Center
2700 Airport Way South
Seattle, WA**

Members and Alternates Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Roger Tabor (USFWS), Bill Robinson (Trout Unlimited), Frank Urabeck (NW Marine Trade Association), Sam Wright (WA Trout), Tom Sibley (NMFS), Chuck Wischman (Puget Sound Anglers), Steve Foley (WDFW)

Other Participants: Chuck Johnson (WDFW), Brodie Antipa (WDFW), Joan Thomas (WDFW), Anne Marshall (WDFW), Steve Schroder (WDFW), Kurt Fresh (NMFS), and Paul Faulds (SPU)

I) Call to order

Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

II) Approval of agenda

Bruce added HSRG of hatchery under item IV. G. Members approved the modified agenda.

III) Meeting minutes review and approval from September 19, 2002

Members approved the minutes from September 19, 2002.

IV) Cedar River sockeye hatchery program

Interim Hatchery Annual Report Brood Year 2001

Bruce noted the interim hatchery annual report was due (on October 1, 2002) and asked Chuck J. and Brodie when the AFC could expect the report. They responded that the report would hopefully be completed in time for the AFC meeting in November.

Weir and Broodstock Collection

Brodie reported that hatchery staff have collected about 8 million eggs and the fish already in the ponds are holding around 3 million more eggs. He said the hatchery is 3 to 4 million eggs ahead of the 2000 production year. The weir is operating fine with few chinook, very little leaf fall, and plenty of sockeye. Chuck J. noted that with such a high egg take if the weir needs to come out due to high flows a discussion should take place as to the value of reinstalling it.

Otolith collection efforts WDFW

Steve Schroder (WDFW) and Kurt Fresh (NMFS) reported to members about otolith collection efforts underway on the Cedar River. Steve provided members with background information on the hatcheries thermal marking program and its linkage to otolith collection. Kurt updated members on this season's carcass recovery effort.

Bruce proposed a motion for the AFC to support funding WDFW carcass collection for adult otolith recoveries and thermal marking fry released from the hatchery. Frank moved to accept the motion and Tom seconded the motion. Bruce asked for a show of hands fore and against the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Frank noted that the AFC expects that the reports and data will be submitted in a timely fashion.

Decision on proposal for statistical review of the adult sockeye sampling program

Bruce asked members for input regarding the proposal for a statistical review of the adult sockeye sampling program by Dr. John R. Skalski. The proposal would evaluate sampling strategies for sockeye in the Cedar River and discuss biases associated with these strategies. These biases would be evaluated for potential impacts on the estimates of numbers of adults resulting from hatchery treatment groups and natural origin.

Tom S. moved to table the motion until the next meeting giving Bruce time to discuss the proposal objectives with John Skalski. The motion passed unanimously and the proposal was tabled for the time being.

Replacement Hatchery EIS

Bruce reported that the comment period for the Draft EIS had been extended to November 6th. He updated members on the Public Forum (technical panel and the policy panel). The forum included presentations, comments and responses to audience questions. He mentioned the event was taped and televised by TV Washington. Bruce stated the Draft EIS Public Hearings in Seattle and Renton were finished and there was no oral testimony offered against the hatchery project.

V) Interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead

Review steelhead genetics proposal Interim Mitigation Program

*Anne Marshall stated that based on the discussion at the August AFC meeting she developed a proposal for genetic analysis of Cedar River steelhead. She provided members with the proposal and stated it was about 95% complete. She stated the main focus of the proposal was to better understand the relationship between anadromous and non-anadromous *O. mykiss*.*

Update on project to release coho above the Landsburg Dam

Steve reported that the coho counts at the locks were low - only about 7,000 fish. This may result in a limited number of fish at the dam and would make collecting them very challenging. Members suggested putting the project off until next year if the numbers didn't improve.

Review interim program recommendations to the Parties to the LMA

Bruce asked members if any more thought was given to the recommendation of setting up a default provision to transfer unspent funds allocated for interim funding. He suggested the default provision take place next year and that proposals be evaluated until March. Any funds not identified for a proposal at that time could be transferred to another program.

VI) Public comment (scheduled for 11:30)

There were no public comments.

VII) Information and discussion items

Cedar River chinook and sockeye counts

Steve reported that last Tuesday's sockeye survey saw the highest count of the season. The survey counted over 40,000 live sockeye. Steve said he was surprised how many sockeye were spawning below the slide in the lower river. Chinook numbers are dropping off and they may end up with 250 redds, while last year they had 400.

VIII) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.